3rd Quarter CY2020
NOISE MANAGEMENT AND AIRLINE TRAFFIC REPORT
The Airport Noise Management Report provides the 3rd Quarter 2020 summary of St. Louis Lambert International Airport’s operations and noise complaints. The data in this report is from L3Harris, Inc. and not from FAA Air Traffic. This report is illustrative of trends and distribution and should not be construed as official traffic counts.

3rd Quarter 2020

Noise Complaints

There were five noise complaints received in the 3rd Quarter of 2020, compared to the sixty four noise complaints in 2019. The noise complaints were from four communities. The night complaints were about cargo aircraft on arrival to STL and complaints in the daytime were about military aircraft departing STL. The decrease in the number of complaints that the Airport received in 3rd Quarter 2020 may be a result of fewer operations from the Covid 19 pandemic. The high number of complaints in 3rd Quarter 2019 were about the continuing construction and closure of Runway 12L/30R. The Airport received over 50 complaints about increased traffic on Runway 11/29. FAA ATCT was using Runway 11/29 for arrivals at STL while the Runway 12L/30R was closed. The increase in traffic operations directly impacted communities to the south of the Airport.

There were two complaints about night-time operations designated as the hours of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m and three complaints about day-time operations (7 a.m. to 10 p.m.). Landings and take-offs (operations) during the day time hours accounted for 91.1 percent of the operations while 8.9 percent of the operations occurred during the night time period. The chart below shows number of complaints by zip code.
The runways at St. Louis Lambert International Airport are: 12R/30L (11,019’x200’), 12L/30R (9,003’x150’), 11/29 (9,001’x150’), and 6/24 (7,607’x150’).

The DNL (Day-Night average sound level) metric describes the total noise exposure during a given period. In computing DNL, an extra weighting of 10dB is assigned to any sound levels occurring between the hours of 10 pm to 7 am. The FAA has established 65 DNL as the threshold above which aircraft noise is considered to be incompatible with residential use. The eight noise monitoring sites are recording levels lower than 65 DNL. Site 3 was hit by a vehicle and was not operational in 3rd Quarter 2019.
There were 32,477 operations in the 3rd Quarter of 2020 compared to 49,707 operations in the 3rd Quarter of 2019, a decrease of −34.7 percent according to L3Harris data*. Beginning in early March, the Covid-19 virus began affecting the United States. Passengers began cancelling trips and flights to prevent from getting the virus and the airlines experienced a sharp decline in the number of reservations. Airlines in turn cancelled and grounded flights. The 3rd Quarter shows the result of continued flight reductions. During the 3rd Quarter of 2020, Runway 30R had greatest number of arrivals at 17.0 percent and Runway 12R had the greatest number of departures at 22.9 percent. In the 3rd Quarter of 2020, there were 32,129 (98.9 percent) operations in which the runway was identified and 348 operations (1.1 percent) where the runways were not identified.

*The L3Harris Airport Noise and Operation Management System (ANOMS) collects FAA air traffic data from the National Airspace System (NAS) and permanent noise monitoring data and correlates flight tracks, noise monitoring events and noise complaints. The ANOMS provides illustrative trends and should not be construed as official traffic counts.
The top twenty airlines in the 3rd Quarter of 2020 included major carriers, regional carriers, cargo, essential air carriers, and general aviation business jet aircraft accounting for 91.5 percent of all operations. Shown in the chart below are the top eleven Part 121 airlines, four general aviation business charter jets (Gamma Charters, Netjets Aviation, Bombardier Business Jet Solutions, and Jetall Holdings), three essential air carriers (Cape Air, Air Choice One and Contour), and two commercial cargo operators (FedEx and UPS) for 3rd Quarter 2020. The 3rd Quarter 2020 includes six regional commercial passenger jet airlines. Regional carriers accounted for 15.6 percent of the operations in the 3rd Quarter. Southwest and Frontier are the only major airlines that are not partnered with the regional airlines at St. Louis Lambert International Airport.

There were 57 Part 121 and Part 135 airlines that utilized the Airport during this period. Part 121 airlines are commercial airlines with more than 30 seats and Part 135 airlines are planes with less than 30 seats.

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The travel sector has been greatly impacted by Covid 19. The summer and early fall is usually a very busy time for the travel industry, however, business and leisure travel passengers were not flying. Flight reductions in the 3rd Quarter 2020 showed commercial narrow body and passenger regional jets operating at roughly 60% percent from 2019.

While the travel sector was greatly impacted, commercial cargo operations saw an increase in operations up 38.2 percent during the same period. FedEx, Amazon, DHL, and UPS have increased operations to meet consumer demands for goods and over night deliveries.

Military operations showed an increase due to new reporting by L3Harris, however, most military operations are filtered and are not shown on flight tracking data. Overall, the 3rd Quarter 2020, as reported in the L3Harris data*, show that operations are down 34.7 percent from 2019.

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Commercial Passenger, Commercial Cargo, General Aviation, and Military are the four categories of operations. The L3Harris data* also includes unknown operations category for aircraft that were not identified by either the Airline or aircraft equipment type, or both. In the 3rd Quarter of 2020 with airlines cutting flights due to the decrease in passengers flying because of the Covid 19 virus, commercial passenger operations were about two thirds (63.4 percent) of the number of operations in for the same period in 2019. Also impacted was the general aviation (GA) category which includes business jets, propeller and helicopter operations. GA reported 2,454 operations as compared to the same period in 2019 which had 3,886 operations. The impact of the Covid19 on the airline industry was a reduction in operations of - 34.7 percent from 2019. This does not include unknown operations. Commercial cargo was actually up by 32.8 percent because consumers turned to Amazon, FedEx, and UPS for deliveries. Because of a change in way L3Harris was reporting military operations in 2020 from 2019, it is not possible to draw a comparison. In 2019, not all military operations were reported by L3Harris and were filtered from known data.

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Shown below are top fifteen aircraft operating at St. Louis Lambert Airport in the 3rd Quarter of 2020. In the 3rd Quarter of 2020, the Boeing 737-700 (10,656 operations) and the Boeing 737-800 (5,968) remained number one and two in the top operating aircraft at the Airport. The 3rd Quarter of 2020 did not have any wide-body or narrow body commercial cargo aircraft in the top 15 aircraft. Four of the top ten aircraft at the Airport are operated by regional carriers. There were 141 known aircraft types that landed at St. Louis Lambert International Airport during this period according to Harris data*.

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There were 32,477 operations recorded in the 3rd Quarter of 2020 compared to 49,707 operations in 2019, a decrease of 34.7 percent. The chart below shows the total percentages of use for known runways for this period. The most utilized runway for departures was Runway 12R (22.9 percent). The most utilized runway for arrivals was Runway 30R (17.0 percent). The crosswind runway 6-24 was the least used runway for this period. The Distribution of Traffic (Eastbound vs. Westbound) for the 3rd Quarter of 2020 was 57.5 percent eastbound and 42.5 percent westbound operations.

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